Between the Lines

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Monopolies in the News

Storage Batteries

The Electric Storage Battery Company of Philadelphia and the Willard Storage Battery Company of Cleveland are charged by the government with maintaining international cartel agreements to divide world markets, to eliminate competition in the manufacture and sale of electric storage batteries, to fix prices and to restrict the production and distribution of storage batteries in the United States. Monopoly arrangements were in force between the American firms and British, German and Canadian companies, says Attorney General Francis Biddle.

The complete control over storage batteries exercised by these companies has hampered military operations, claims the Justice Department, inasmuch as a long-life battery has been withheld from the market in the United States. According to the complaint brought against the battery corporations, a nickel-cadmium battery that lasts more than three times as long as the average battery has not been "made, used or sold in this country and [has] not been used by the armed forces of the United States. As a result of the conspiracy . . . the United States has had neither the commercial experience nor the manufacturing facilities necessary to determine the advantage of cadmium batteries over other batteries for commercial and military uses."

Drugs

The health of the nation suffers because of the monopoly practices of powerful drug cartels, says Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge. Especially hard hit are the low income groups which, because monopoly agreements keep drug products high in price, are not able to supply their needs. Mr. Berge's statement to a Congressional committee investigating aid to the physically handicapped went on to say that producers of medical and pharmaceutical products suppress new developments and improvements that might affect their profits and fight outside research. Besides this, they fix exorbitant prices, limit production and even adulterate their products.

(Continued on next page)

BRUSH ASIDE PROPAGANDA and you will find that historians agree that Naziism and the war it brought on were not the result of sins committed within Germany alone, but were the result of a moral and spiritual breakdown throughout the whole world which found its most violent manifestation in the work of Hitler. France contributed to this breakdown, so did England and America. Now the German Christian leaders, arising from years of persecution, are sternly calling their people to repentance, while the majority of voices in America and England—even many pulpits—are intoning paeans of victory in snug self-righteousness. We may ignore the perspectives of history, but God will not.

X-Ray and Forecast

Post-War World Shaping Up

The western world, molten under the hot flames of war, has finally reached a state of solidification that begins to reveal to a dependable extent the shape of things to come. Although censorship and suppression of news and facts keep most of the world unaware of many important changes, here are some things that the informed Christian layman should know and be watching:

1. The Russian army, whose movements, as we advised our readers over two years ago, are the key to the post-war world, has now staked down its frontiers of influence and control. You haven't been allowed to know it, but that boundary is nearly 200 miles farther west than Britain and America intended—a strategy which has caused many sharp diplomatic exchanges. But with the greatest array of guns that the world has ever known on the Russian side, London's notes accompanied by Washington's echoes of approval have seemed light and ineffective. Behind the Russian-held boundaries, the Soviet is making a clean sweep of reorganizing the states that flank Russia's old frontier, using well-known Moscow methods that are brutal and thorough for those who oppose but generous and rewarding for those who cooperate.

2. In spite of the impressions to the contrary given by Anglo-American propaganda, Soviet treatment of the average impoverished citizen—worker and farmer—in Germany, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and elsewhere is far more generous than that of British or American occupation forces. The common masses are eating better and are generally better cared for under Soviet occupation than under ours, while Nazis and war criminals are executed without delay. The land-owning aristocrats and industrialists are being liquidated, and the land and wealth are being redistributed in various ways to the common people.

3. Therefore, Moscow's revolutionary policy prevails east of Russia's German line of occupation while the London millionaire Tories and the Wall Street representatives dominant in our State Department control everything west of that line in a manner guaranteed to prevent revolutionary change and to preserve the status quo of the past, including all the old rotten roots of Europe's political and economic order that has already given rise to two wars in one generation.

4. No Christian mind can condone the brutality of the Soviet method, which ships whole communities of former Nazi collaborators to slave labor, liquidates the large land owners and their property and otherwise mercilessly shifts the center of wealth from the control of the privileged few to the benefit of the common mass, but no Christian mind dare ignore the fact of change and its repercussions on a world where three-fourths of the people still remain in economic bondage of one kind or another.

5. All this has caused great shock in the high places of wealth and finance in the British-American world. One crowd in London and Washington, augmented by strong Catholic backing, is already openly talking and demanding war with Russia as soon as we can get ready for it. Our State Department

(Continued on next page)

Monopolies in the News

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Monopolies have regulated the distribution of such vital products as quinine, which was completely controlled by a Dutch cartel until the Japanese invasion of Java, and quinine's substitute, atabrine, which was controlled by a German cartel.

Vitamin D, essential in the treatment of rickets and other deficiency ailments most menacing to lower income families, is controlled by the Wisconsin Alumni Research foundation which, Mr. Berge declares, has allocated distribution, fixed prices and arbitrarily determined container size and strength of vitamin products. (The University of Wisconsin has no control over the monopoly practices of the Alumni Research foundation.)

Insulin is controlled by a combine which recently boosted its price. Distributors had to conform to the new price schedule and charge the new price to customers or forfeit their supply. Customers had to pay the increased price since the lives of about two million diabetics depend upon their use of insulin.

Eyeglasses and a plastic used in dental plates are among other drug products controlled by monopolistic interests. The plastic was priced at 85 cents a pound for industrial purposes and at $45 a pound for dental plates. When the manufacturers found that dentists were buying the material from industrial sources, they tried to add impurities to the plastic that would not harm its industrial uses but would make it unsuitable for dental plates, the Justice Department official said.

Mr. Berge also cited the case of paint manufacturers who set their chemists to work to try to get a skin irritant, such as ground glass, into a newly developed paint pigment so that the paint could not be used for printing textiles.

Glass

Government action is being brought against the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, the National Glass Distributors Association of Chicago and seven other glass manufacturers to break up

X-Ray and Forecast

(Continued from first page)

is split on this; a strong section, closely tied to Wall Street, is expecting and promoting and planning for war with Russia within ten years. **Churchill himself** is a leader of these groups and would start war with Russia now if he could be sure America would go along. In fact his remark in a recent speech to "police governments taking over in areas which we have liberated from the Nazis" was accepted in Moscow as a direct, angry thrust. (Perhaps you didn't notice that two days later Stalin announced that Russia would start military training for fifteen-year-olds!) A certain section of our Washington leadership gave Churchill cheers for his angry attack on Moscow, but another group, fortunately larger than the former, considers Churchill's attitude a menace to the peace and any thought of war with Russia sheer insanity.

6. This strong group, which has its counterpart in the liberal wing of Churchill's government, believes that we should recognize Russia as a cruel but effective instrument of change—**change which should have been made in the right way long ago but which is now being forced upon us relentlessly. The way to meet this demand for change is not with hate and guns but with modern, intelligent reform in the systems of controlling the British and American dominated west that will immediately provide grounds for cooperation with Russia** and will temper Russian extremities by the effectiveness of our example. Hate and violence would but inflame the Soviet's radical attitudes.

A strong movement is under way in both London and Washington along this line. Anthony Eden is understood to be in this group in opposition to the immoderate conservativism of Churchill. You hear some talk from this group concerning freedom for India and Burma and larger social benefits for workers. Along with Eden are many fine, outstanding, progressive Englishmen in both liberal and conservative wings who are urging progress in this direction. Millions of Englishmen are grateful to Churchill and his government for war leadership, but see the menace of a perpetuation now of the old conservative systems. These people are preparing for changes in their world as soon as the war is over. It is not, therefore, a matter of being pro-British or anti-British as the propagandists of high finance in America, who control much of our press and radio, and the unthinking and uninformed, who are duped by them, would have us think. It is being very pro-British to save Britain from a final, devastating war by promoting reasonable intelligent progress to off-set violent changes that would destroy all the best that English culture has stood for.

In this general atmosphere of change, the Christian lay mind must do its thinking, its praying—and its hoping.

Moving Spotlight

Kagawa's Broadcasts

You may have heard the reports that Toyohika Kagawa has been making anti-United States broadcasts from Japan. Christian missionaries from Japan, now resident in America, believe that Kagawa's broadcasts have not been anti-American. He deplores American bombing raids which are killing so many helpless Japanese women and children with such fury. Many American Christians do the same. He condemned the propaganda picture which showed an American girl holding the skull of a Japanese soldier which had been sent to her by an American boy. So did American Christians. He holds no brief for imperialistic expansion or the drawing of racial barriers. Neither do millions of American Christians. On the other hand, Kagawa's broadcasts can in no way be construed as supporting the Japanese war effort.

Doubtless, with our planes raining untold suffering and destruction in increasing tempo, Kagawa feels that America is not a Christian nation any more than Japan is. They are both pagan nations with the Christians within them struggling to maintain Christian truth. This is a viewpoint which would be very difficult to combat—for who but an arrogant Pharisee would deny it?

German Churchmen's Judgment

Liberated Christian leaders in Germany, the famed pastor Niemoeller, Dr. Johann Neuhaeuseler, Canon of Munich Cathedral, and others, have amply demonstrated their sound viewpoint on the post-war German problem by indicating their doubts of Germany's capacity for self-rule for some time to come. Americans have tended to suspect the faith and motives of German Christians in that they might use their influence for a soft peace. To the contrary, Niemoeller himself has urged that Germany be ruled "with an iron hand until the forces of truth and justice and moral righteousness can be re-established." Niemoeller has also stated that he believes that it is useless to try to re-educate Germans over 30. "This generation is lost. We must work with the next."

pany, the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, the National Glass Distributors Association of Chicago and seven other glass manufacturers to break up a flat-glass monopoly. According to the Justice Department, these firms had formed a conspiracy to monopolize the production, distribution and sale of flat-glass and had completely eliminated competition in the flat-glass industry in the United States.

Plastics

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc., and Rohm & Haas Company, Inc., are now on trial for restricting the production and distribution of certain plastic materials. Nearly three years ago, a Federal grand jury charged that the chemical companies had entered upon a conspiracy with the German Farbenindustrie and with the British Chemical Industries, Ltd., to fix prices and eliminate competition in the manufacture and sale of these plastics. Prosecution of the indictment was delayed.

The materials in question, acrylic products, are very important plastics, being used for such purposes as bomber noses, gun turrets and cockpit enclosures for military aircraft.

Sulphur

The Federal Trade Commission is investigating a sulphur industry monopoly of the world's sulphur trade. The Sulphur Export Corporation is a combine of the Texas Gulf Sulphur Company and the Freeport Sulphur Company which are, in turn, owned by two large oil companies. Italy is the only other country in the world which produces natural sulphur and, under the Webb-Pomerene Act, or Export Trade Act, the Sulphur Export Corporation controls the distribution not only of United States sulphur but of Italian sulphur as well.

Sulphur is a vital material used extensively by the chemical and metallurgical industries. The FTC claims that the Sulphur Export Corporation has a stranglehold on sulphur sales in the United States, and that it made agreements with Italian sulphur producers whereby they divided the world sulphur markets, fixed prices, restricted sales quotas and prevented competition on the part of smaller sulphur companies.

DOING WITHOUT GOD

How immature and juvenile is the cynic who says "I don't have anything to do with religion or God,—I run my life as I please." He is like a child who shouts the same thing to his parents, while the parent continues to feed and clothe, educate and support the child. As eminent scientists often affirm, "All the universe moves by one vast intelligent intricate pattern: all of life is woven into one harmonious relationship with divine law—or there is disaster." Yet the blind and selfish man stands on the little planet God holds in His hands and shouts his defiance and independence! How much wiser to study God's words, to learn the divine laws that govern life and learn to cooperate with them. That is the place of religion in life, and the Church is the avenue of approach to these divine truths.

"The Muddle East"

The Middle East Syrian crisis (GI's are calling it the "muddle east") is a part of the above pattern and can only be understood when viewed from that angle. Maybe British agents did foment the disturbances against the French as the French claim, maybe they didn't. But Churchill has been boiling over because France has been swinging toward Russia instead of toward Britain as Churchill had labored to achieve. If France moves into Russia's orbit, Britain will be desperate to push her out of the Middle East where the empire's life blood (oil) and life line lies.

One important fact that has so far been kept suppressed is that the Pan-Arabian organization, which is being secretly British-sponsored, is aimed at pushing France out as she leans toward Russia. This organization is also putting a strangle knot on the Jewish Palestine hopes and is opening the door to American participation in Arab oil areas as a way to bring American armed might into the scene to give further protection to empire interests. Huge payments of cash to Arab leaders by American oil companies for oil concessions has been a part of this scheme—and a scheme fraught with danger it is. To the consternation of both London and Washington officials, Stalin has been countering these manipulations by spreading propaganda among the Arabs to the effect that Russia encompasses the only Muslem republics in the western world, pointing to the fact that over 20,000,000 Mohammedans live within Russia's borders and are given special religious privileges. Will British diplomacy and American cash hold the front against the Soviet approach in the Arab-oil world?

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to re-educate Germans over 30. "This generation is lost. We must work with the next."

American Christians should realize that we have real allies in the German Christian groups which are now arising out of the years of persecution with positive realizations of Germany's need for repentance and spiritual and moral reconstruction.

Some criticism is heard concerning Niemoeller's former offer to re-enter the German Navy. During recent interviews Niemoeller commented, "My three sons were fighting for their country. Could I remain unwilling to aid them?" Niemoeller is not a pacifist. He is a loyal German, and Christianity, wherever it exists, does not preclude patriotism. Said Niemoeller, "I opposed Hitler on moral, doctrinal and spiritual grounds, but I did not cease to be a German."

Word Count

The Declaration of Independence required about 300 words, the Ten Commandments 297; the Gettysburg address 266, and an OPA announcement ordering a cut in the price of cabbage seed, 2,621.

Dutch Crowd the Churches

Dutch churches are filled to overflowing, reports J. A. C. Fagginger Auer, Harvard history professor who has just returned from Holland. Throughout the worst years of Nazi occupation, said Dr. Auer, the church in Holland supported the common decencies of life and is responsible in large measure for the fact that a great many Jews escaped Nazi brutality. "I have heard many stories of Jewish men, women and children remaining hidden for three years or more in attic rooms and sharing with their protectors the little they had," the historian declared.

Italian Fiasco

American Army men never did want to invade Italy. They were all for attempting a direct invasion of Europe through France by late 1942, but Churchill pushed them into the Italian campaign with his "soft underbelly" strategy. Allied capitals now openly state that the Italian adventure was a costly mistake. In spite of 100,000 casualties, it left us far from the heart of Germany.

X-Ray and Forecast

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War Guilt Intrigues

It is now at last being openly admitted around Washington that the great international cartel groups, including London, Wall Street, French and Dutch business leaders and the German financiers and industrialists who financed and supplied the Nazis, have been holding secret meetings in Spain and elsewhere throughout the past few months.

The American public is also not being allowed to know that the British are demanding that the war crime trials be held secretly. There are many reasons for this. One is photostatic copies of Churchill's secret correspondence with Petain and other fascist leaders of Europe which are in the hands of some of the Nazi prisoners.

You will notice that no public trial of Hess has been permitted in England. In fact his presence has been the most closely guarded secret of the war. It is common knowledge among newsmen in Europe, however, that if Hess were allowed to talk or if documents pertaining to his mission were allowed to reach the public eye there would be political earthquakes all over the world. The British announced that Hess was mentally ill, which has been a clever cover-up in case anything did break out along this line. Hess may be insane or even dead by this time, but the fact remains that no public trial or trial of any kind has been allowed to be held.

Such reputable writers as Pierre Van Paassen, Heinz Pol and others who have burrowed around on the inside of present day European intrigue are frankly saying both on and off the record that, if the truth were known about the relationship between London aristocrats, Paris big business figures and Nazi leaders, an explosion would occur that would wreck the whole political structure from Moscow to San Francisco. If you think we are kidding, let us refer to the fact that a French professor in Montreal has recently published a book relative to Churchill's relations with Petain and Nazi collaborators in France. The author of the book, "The Accord Between Petain and Churchill," Louis Rougier, states that he had been the agent and go-between for British officials and Vichy. Rougier's book tells of several interviews with Lord Halifax, now Ambassador to the United States, then British Foreign Minister, and Winston Churchill. A lengthy accord or gentleman's agreement was drawn up providing an outline of collaboration on many points where London and Vichy interests met.

It is not hard, therefore, to find reasons that much stalling has and is going on in the London War Crimes Committee and why the British are holding out for secret trials!

British Election

Experts are forecasting that Churchill will win the coming British election by about a 60 per cent margin. Reasons given are that, with the millionaire Tory cliques still in complete control of the press and radio, the liberal forces cannot get their cause sufficiently before the people. The liberals had planned for a late fall election when these controls would have been somewhat lessened, but, as is widely recognized, Churchill, realizing this, forced the holding of the election as early as possible so that his power over the nation's voice would still be at its pinnacle and his victory assured.

However, when the war is over and the Tory grip broken by a return to democracy in England, a sweeping liberal victory is expected to come. The Tories know this. Even Tory spokesmen are calling Churchill "the last bulwark of the vanishing Englishman." There is a widespread feeling among students of political science that, like New Zealand and increasingly so in Australia, Britain will become socialized within the next ten years in spite of the complete dominance of the present conservative regime which is chiefly concentrating its efforts on protecting its foreign investments.

The Fate of the FEPC

One of the biggest barriers to the improvement of race relations in America is the undemocratic and unchristian attitude of some large labor unions. President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee, in trying to enforce the legal rights of Negroes, finds its main opposition not on the part of employers but of the unions. In Detroit, specific instances have lately occurred. Teamsters unions will not allow qualified and experienced Negro drivers to operate trucks with companies with which the union holds contracts. In the South the railroads are prevented from promoting qualified Negro workers because of the rulings of railroad unions. These unions pose as champions of democracy—until it applies to themselves! This FEPC issue is the hottest controversy within the Democratic party.

Now President Truman has uncompromisingly advocated the establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Act, in spite of the fact that Southern Congressmen have brought great pressure to block further promotion of FEPC activities. Mr. Truman also made it clear that he disapproved the political maneuverings of both Republicans and Southern Democrats to keep the FEPC bill off the floor of Congress, and the failure of the House Appropriations Committee to allocate funds for the current FEPC.

Peace-Time Conscription

The drive on Congress to force through legislation on peace-time conscription is under way. Naturally most government departments are cooperating to force the issue upon a doubtful public. The American Legion is spearheading the drive.

The War Department has exerted great pressure to bring as many as possible of the representatives of the religious and educational forces of the country into line favoring the passage of the act. However, the fact remains that the bulk of religious and educational leaders of America either oppose its enactment now when war fever prevents calm judgment or oppose it altogether. Many labor leaders also oppose the bill. According to a recent statement released by the American Council on Education, three out of four college presidents favor delaying peace-time conscription legislation until peace is established. And Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders, supported by spokesmen for religious, educational and labor organizations, asserted in Washington last week that peace-time military training is a threat to the development of the country's youth and its democratic institutions. They urged that the whole question not be considered until the end of the war.

The advocates of military conscription make their strongest point on the argument that universal military training prevents wars. Yet America's foremost authority on military affairs, Hanson Baldwin, recently wrote: "History does not support this viewpoint. Conscription has never stopped war nor made war less frequent."

Special Announcement: Booklet by Mr. Wells

The Friendship Press, publishers for the Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada, announce a booklet, "A Veteran Came Home Today," written and illustrated by Charles A. Wells, editor of Between the Lines. This four-thousand word booklet presents the world-wide spiritual challenge that faces the veteran and his folks at home as the servicemen return. When you have read it, you will want to place a copy in the hands of every returning veteran and his family of your acquaintance. The booklet sells for 10¢. Many churches are ordering 100 or more. Friendship Press reports 10,000 orders already on hand at the time of publishing! Send 10¢ in stamps for your copy, or, still better, **a dollar check for ten to give to servicemen friends.** Talk to your pastor and have your church order a quantity to be handed to every returning veteran. Act promptly, supplies are limited.